THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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EDnet UPDATE

As of the date of this issue, all but five branch libraries across the province of Nova Scotia now have EDnet connections. EDnet is the Dept. of Education and Culture's province-wide WAN. The remaining five installations have been delayed for technical reasons which should be resolved in the next couple of weeks. The public access terminals for the most recent installations will be out as soon as the ethernet cables arrive.

By the end of 1996, once the remaining five connections have been installed and a couple of branches are relocated, every branch library in Nova Scotia will be offering public access to the Internet. This makes Nova Scotia the only province in Canada (according to a recent Industry Canada Survey) to offer access to the Internet in every public library.

REGIONAL LIBRARIES' STRATEGIC PLAN

In 1993-94, much valuable work was done on a Strategic Plan for Nova Scotia Libraries. A new planning process has been undertaken and the new plan will build on the foundations established with the earlier planning process taking into account the events that have had an impact on the library environment since then. The Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Strategic Planning Stakeholders' Workshop will take place, at long last, in January.

The four sponsors of the Strategic Planning Process are the Council of Regional Librarians, the Nova Scotia Library Association, the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Each of the four sponsors will invite delegates from the library and education fields to meet for the two-day conference. Sharon Horne of People Developments has been hired to facilitate the work of the conference. She will synthesize the results from the Stakeholders' Workshop into a draft plan which will be sent to the four sponsoring organizations for final revision. It is anticipated that the final Strategic Plan for Nova Scotia Regional Libraries will be completed and implemented by the end of the fiscal year.

Some new developments in regional libraries since the previous strategic planning process was initiated include increased public demands for Internet access and other electronic technologies, the planned introduction of automated circulation and catalogue services in all branch libraries across the Province, the introduction of a new funding formula for libraries with an emphasis on fundraising, and the impact that municipal and library amalgamations have on the delivery of library services to urban and rural areas. At the same time, libraries are facing restraints in government funding, the demand for

accountability in the expenditure of public funds, and the push to find alternative means of funding library services...all big opportunities for and threats to the traditional way of delivering library services.

The good news is that the recently completed Public Attitude Survey makes it crystal clear that Nova Scotians use their libraries well (over two thirds of respondents had visited a public library in the past year), and 75% see public libraries as essential to their well-being. This document will form the basis for the work undertaken by the stakeholders at the workshop in January.

Information on the Strategic Planning Process is now available on the Provincial Library's Web site (http://rs6000nshpl.library.ns.ca/strategic/info.htm). If you would like to volunteer to be a representative from your library or NSLA to the Strategic Planning Workshop in January, please contact any member of the Planning Committee. They are: Janet Clark, Council of Regional Librarians (jclark@nsbs.library.ns.ca); Linda MacDonald, Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia (lmacdona@admin.stmarys.ca); Heather MacKenzie, Nova Scotia Library Association (hmackenz@nsh.library.ns.ca); and Debbie Taylor, Nova Scotia Provincial Library (hlfxprol.educprol.taylordc@gov.ns.ca).

PL STAFF HIT THE PAVEMENT

Gillian Webster and Carol Morris, both of User Services, were pleased to be able to make a visit to Cumberland Regional Library on November 18 to meet and speak to Beverly True and her staff. About 20 staff members were gathered at the branch in Amherst for their annual in-service. Gillian presented a workshop on the reference interview and Carol spoke about the reference services offered by User Services. It was a great opportunity to meet the staff of the Cumberland Regional Library and to find out their concerns. Thanks to Beverly and staff for their hospitality.

Gillian also visited other regional libraries this month along with Dale MacMillan and Ann Dunsworth. On November 5, they visited the South Shore Regional Library Headquarters in Hebbville, hosted by Janet Clark and Frances Anderson. Dale and Gillian viewed the regional ILL system and discussed related issues while Ann discussed Talking Books and Multilingual Biblioservice with regional library staff.

On November 14, they visited the Annapolis Valley Regional Library in Bridgetown. They met with David Witherly and Corrine Frantel as well as a number of other regional library staff members and toured the new headquarters facilities. Apart from discussing ILL, Talking Books/MBS issues and reference issues, they also learned from Charlotte Janes of AVRL about the idea of a "holds option" for materials which patrons would otherwise obtain through ILL from the other regional public libraries. Automation of their circulation system by Spring/Summer of 1997 should make this possible, reducing paperwork and staff time. AVRL has offered itself as a model where other regions can place holds on their materials.

On November 20, they headed off to the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. As with the first two visits, Dale, Ann and Gillian observed how interlibrary loan operations are carried out - both within the

PARL system, between the regional public libraries, and with all other types of libraries. Fred Popowich hosted the visit to PARL. These trips give User Services staff members an opportunity to gain some insight into dealing with regional issues.

On November 1, Johanna Cooper of Technical Services visited the Annapolis Valley Regional Library to train Charlotte Janes, Wendy Trimper, and Pam Ellis in preparation for building AVRL's patron database. Work on entering patron records from paper registrations will begin shortly at AVRL Headquarters. AVRL will issue their new, province-wide library cards when circulation goes up in mid-1997. Many thanks to all the regional library staff members who gave their time and energy to hosting all of these visits.

AUTOMATION WORKING GROUP MEETING

The second AWG meeting for 1996 was held on Friday, November 16 at the Alderney Gate Branch of the Halifax Regional Library. Representatives from all nine regional libraries, Learning Resources and Technology and the Provincial Library were present to discuss a very full agenda. The meeting commenced with a status report from each regional library with respect to their automation. Halifax Regional Library has successfully amalgamated three regional libraries into one system on Dynix and now have their staffing complete. Western Counties Regional Library and Annapolis Regional Library are in full implementation with circulation scheduled to commence mid-1997, Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library and Colchester-East Hants Regional Library are about to commence their patron databases in their own banks and the pre-implementation discussions with South Shore are scheduled for late November 1996, prior to their own bank being formed. Similar developments are planned for the remaining three regional libraries early in 1997.

Other topics discussed at the meeting include agreement on new Collection codes, making the OPAC display more user-friendly and standardizing it across banks in NcompasS; looking at possible ways to speed up the cataloguing process at the Provincial Library; evaluating different barcode readers; placing Adobe Acrobat software on all PAT's to assist patrons in reading government documents; and access to the Internet in rural areas.

COMMUNITY ACCESS '96

Community Access '96, a conference hosted by the Centre for Community and Enterprise Networking (C \CEN), University College of Cape Breton in conjunction with Industry Canada took place November 21-23, 1996.

Below are two short articles from Ian MacIntosh (Cape Breton Regional Library)and David Witherly (Annapolis Valley Regional Library) who attended the conference. Steve Cisler of Network Outreach from Apple Corporation prepared an extensive conference report which has received wide distribution. If you wish to receive a copy, contact Steve by e-mail (sac@gala.apple.com). Conference transcripts are available at the Community Access '96 website (http://highlander.cbnet.ns.ca/cbnet/events/age_page.

html). You will also find there the draft Nova Scotia Strategy for Community Access prepared by the NSCAP Steering Committee.

The highlight of the Community Access '96 Conference for me was the speech given Saturday morning by Doug Hull, Director General, Science Promotion & Academic Affairs, Industry Canada, Ottawa. His speech was entitled "The Future of the Community Access Programme". His provocative view was that the ultimate aim of the programme should be to shut down the sites after three to five years because by then connectivity will hopefully be pervasive in homes and businesses. Until then, though, CAP is being viewed by the federal government as a national unity promotion device providing shared experiences for many ordinary Canadians coast to coast as they try, with some financial encouragement from the government, to connect their communities to the Internet.

Despite this community emphasis, Hull warned that local self-sufficient economies are dying as every area gets more and more enmeshed in the emerging global economy. Tariff barriers are gone forever, he feels, and location is no longer an important factor for non-resource based enterprises -knowledge is now the major factor. He used the example that travel companies in Los Angeles are now competing head-to-head for business with local companies everywhere in North America. He suggested that our mind-set should change so that we now look to do business in Los Angeles (and everywhere else) ourselves rather than seek to protect our own little market.

He stated that the Information Highway is important because it speeds up knowledge-based transactions which are *the* main components of the New Economy. The Info Highway also serves to eliminate distance from markets as a competitive factor, though I personally thought that in this area Hull was undervaluing the personal relations element in government and business transactions. Decision makers, I think, are more likely to deal with a person or group with whom they have had personal contact over lunch than with a faceless individual at some rest stop on the Info Highway. That said, Hull's speech had me nodding in agreement more often than not and I feel that a transcript of his remarks available at: http://highlander.cbnet.ns.ca/cbnet/events/dhull.html would make useful reading for anyone concerned with community networking. -- Ian MacIntosh, Regional Librarian, Cape Breton Regional Library

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As one of the approximately three hundred attendees at the Community Access '96 conference, I came away with an increased understanding and respect for the potential which electronic communication offers communities in Atlantic Canada. The instances of economic opportunities created by imaginative use of community (Internet) access as related by workshop speakers was inspiring. No less so were the success stories told by many delegates in informal conversation.

The enthusiasm evident in Sydney made myself, and I am sure many others, more convinced in the belief that providing Internet access can help revitalize communities socially, culturally, educationally and economically. The organizers and sponsors of Community Access '96 are to be congratulated on an informative and worthwhile experience which will go far in improving and facilitating access to

electronic information throughout Atlantic Canada. -- David Witherly, Regional Librarian, Annapolis Valley Regional Library

LBANS WORKSHOPS

Marion Pape attended the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia workshop in Truro on November 2, shortly after the unfortunate flood in the basement of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library's headquarters. There were also attendees from the Halifax Regional Library and the Cumberland Regional Library. Other workshops were also held in Bridgewater and Mulgrave. A survey of all library board chairs was conducted in the spring to determine the most popular topics to present. Two excellent workshops were delivered on library promotion and fundraising. Compliments to members of the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia for their proactive approach to training library trustees. In addition, the new Trustee Handbook was distributed. This handbook was the result of a great deal of effort by a small committee consisting of Gary Archibald, Andrea John and Mary Frost. If you have new ideas or wish to make changes for the next edition, contact Gary Archibald (nstn2360@fox.nstn.ca). Copies are available from the Provincial Library by contacting Debbie Ross (rossdl@gov.ns.ca).

STAFFING NEWS

Andrea John has been granted an extension to her parental leave until June, 1997 and Debbie Taylor has been appointed as Acting Coordinator of User Services until that time. We are very pleased that Debbie has agreed to work with Provincial Library staff for the extended period. There are a number of important projects underway that Debbie has been working on such as strategic planning and standards for library services.

Merideth Fletcher recently joined the Technical Services section as a Cataloguer (Librarian I) for six months. Merideth will divide her time between Acquisitions (planning new procedures and workflow patterns in Technical Services, as regional libraries automate) and Cataloguing. She will be cataloguing English and non-English books, serials, government documents, videos, and drawing upon her background in music, compact discs. Before joining Provincial Library, Merideth worked at the Technical University of Nova Scotia Library as a Reference/Cataloguing librarian. She graduated from the Dalhousie Library School in May 1996.

Craig Dutton has accepted the permanent position of Library Assistant II in cataloguing. Lois Oliver has moved into the casual Library Assistant position doing RECON.

LINKed

This month's theme is finding people on the Net. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to suggest a theme for future columns, please e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Four-One-One Directory

http://www.four11.com/
- This service is useful in that it can find e-mail addresses of individuals. The only problem is that in order to be listed you have to register. To search for an e-mail address, you can enter a person's name and any other information about their location that you might have and, if they've registered, you'll find their e-mail address.

WhoWhere? E-mail Addresses
http://www.whowhere.com/
- This is another great search facility for finding individual's e-mail addresses. Of course, if you really want to know someone's e-mail address you can always just ask them.

Sympatico's Canada411
http://www1.sympatico.ca/Tools/search.html
- This tool is really useful if you're looking for a Canuck. You can find a mailing address and telephone number for anyone in the country by entering their name and the province they're in. You're not required to enter a province but it speeds up the search process if you can narrow it down. If they're in the phone book, you'll find them here.

Telephone Directories on the Web
http://www.contractjobs.com/tel/
- This is an index which lists all known telephone directories on the Web. Organized by country, it includes white page directories, yellow pages and fax directories. Most excellent! -- Sue Dirani

REFERENCE ON THE NET

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Patron wants information on how to make golf clubs.

A. A site called Clubmaker Online (http://clubmaker-online.com/) provides a wealth of information including a tutorial for beginning clubmakers. It was found by entering the phrase "golf clubs" in the Lycos search engine.

Q. Information about hovercraft, including plans for building one.

A. A number of sites with all kinds of useful information on hovercraft were found by simply entering the term "hovercraft" in the various search engines. Some of these are:
- Stew's Hovercraft Page (http://www.smu.edu/~smayer/stewstuf/hover.html - The Hovercraft Homepage (http://www.gj.net/~alex/hover.html) - Universal Hovercraft which sells hovercraft plans (http://www.bews.com/hover/) - World Hovercraft News, The Internet Hovercraft Reference (http://www2.hunterlink.net.au/~ddmcr/) -- Carol Morris

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, we feature two recently acquired books which have a futuristic theme. These items can be obtained from the Provincial Library's professional collection through regular interlibrary loan channels.

1) Cornish, Edward - Exploring the Future: Living, Learning and Working in the Information Age. Bethesda, Md: World Future Society, c1996.

The main theme of this book is that we, as individuals, can shape our own future. The editor asserts that thinking about the future is an obvious necessity for success in life. Cornish says that as we start thinking about factors which could shape our future, we discover a new power which will help us to transform our lives. The book consists of thirty-three brief articles by a variety of authors dealing with issues associated with future developments.

2) Theobald, Robert - Reworking Success: New Tools for Creating Communities. New Orleans, La: Participation Press, c1996.

In the introduction to this book, the author Robert Theobald states that while all organisms strive for success, human beings alone have the capacity to change their surroundings so dramatically and rapidly that they must alter their patterns of behaviour, reward systems and ultimately their success criteria. When this happens, new cultural patterns emerge. From this statement, the author goes on to develop his central theme - that criteria for success in the 21st century are social cohesion, respect for all of nature and regeneration of the integrity of fundamental ecological systems. These criteria will replace current preoccupations with economic growth and international competitiveness. According to the author, this fundamental change in thinking required to bring this transformation will occur at the personal, group and community levels. -- Frank Oram

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